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sary requirements. Personally, we believe in a *genetic* geometry, developed from the individual (infantile and mature) formal experience of every person, agreeing with the racial and cosmic experience, forming a part of one's total mental life, and not constituting a forced, transitory, and factitious episode of a High-School sojourn, from which nothing remains but the mazy congruence of a couple of stale, flat, and unprofitable triangles, a Pythagorean proposition, and the memory of a grand intellectual opportunity that has been lost. We may leave to the minds of maturity, the magnificent formalism and logic of Euclid, worthy scion of Plato and Aristotle, whose gods even "arithmetised"; but let us give to our children a live acquaintance with that real world of forms which is open to us all in our every-day life and from which the great predecessors of Euclid too drew; and the catalogue of the Archimedes, the Monges, and the Jacob Steiners, shall be swelled beyond credibility.

For details we must refer to the work itself. The second edition is formally and typographically a vast improvement on the first. T. J. McC.

THE EVOLUTION OF GENERAL IDEAS. By *Th. Ribot*, Professor in the Collège de France. Authorised translation from the French by *Frances A. Welby*. Chicago: The Open Court Publishing Co. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co. 1899. Pp. 231. Price, \$1.25 (6s. 6d.).

This is a characteristic production of M. Ribot,—a study of pure psychology, of the genesis and embryogeny of general ideas, rigorously excluding all that relates to logic, the theory of knowledge, and metaphysics. We are thrown, here, he says, "upon observation, upon the facts wherein mental processes are enunciated, and discovered. Our material, and principal sources of information, lie therefore: (1) for inferior abstracts, in the acts of animals, of children, of uneducated deaf-mutes; (2) for intermediate abstracts, in the development of languages, and the ethnographical documents of primitive or half-civilised peoples; (3) for superior abstracts, in the progressive constitution of scientific ideas and theories, and of classifications."

"We shall endeavor," further, "to show how the faculty of abstracting and of generalising has been developed empirically, and to follow it in its spontaneous and natural evolution as shown in history,—not in the philosophical speculations which are only its efflorescence, and which, for the most part, ignore or despise its origins."

In the progressive development of the operations of abstraction and generalisation, he finds three main periods: "(1) inferior abstraction, prior to the appearance of speech, independent of words (though not of all signs); (2) intermediate abstraction, accompanied by words, which though at first accessory, increase in importance little by little; (3) superior abstraction, where words alone exist in consciousness, and correspond to a complete substitution."

We have then passed in rapid and brilliant review the main facts of animal,

child, ethnic, and linguistic psychology, as well as the main outlines of the history of science. The chief interest for philosophical readers will lie in M. Ribot's examination of scientific ideas (the concepts of number, space, time, cause, law, and species), in which will be found a fine critical summary of the best recent speculation on these topics (and the same may be said of the chapters on the lower forms of abstraction and on language). The volume possesses thus, in addition to its incisive and apt scientific criticisms, its lucidity and economy of exposition, a decided value as an epitome of research. It will accordingly rank with M. Ribot's other works in popularity and in the success with which it is destined to disseminate among the public at large, sound and practical psychological ideas. The translation has been excellently done.  $\mu$ .

A FIRST BOOK IN ORGANIC EVOLUTION. By *D. Kerfoot Shute, A. B., M. D.* Ophthalmic Surgeon to the University Hospital (Columbian), Professor of Anatomy in the Columbian University. Chicago: The Open Court Publishing Co. London: Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co. 1899. Pp. 285. Illustrations, 30. Colored plates, 9. Price, \$2.00 (7s. 6d.).

Dr. Shute has proposed in this work to write an *introduction* to the Development Theory, only; and the book is designed especially for prospective medical students, and for high schools, academies, and colleges. The style is easy and simple, and great pains have been taken, by means of a very full etymological glossary, to make every technical term clear. The introductory studies on classifications, cellular physiology, heredity, ordinary zoölogy and botany, have been prepared purposely for the needs of the beginner, and nothing technical beyond what is contained in the book is requisite to its comprehension. While the author makes no claim to originality, save in the matter of presentation, commendatory words may still be said as to his method of arranging his material and particularly as to the illustrations and diagrams several of which are new. The colored plates, nine in number, are splendid specimens of the printer's art, and contain in themselves more instruction as to the rôle coloration plays in natural selection than triple the number of pages in print could convey. Having Dr. Shute's book, no one, however slight his knowledge of biology, can now have the remotest pretext for not acquainting himself with the main features of the theory of evolution.  $\mu$ .

L'ANNÉE BIOLOGIQUE. Comptes rendus annuels des Travaux de Biologie Générale. Publiés sous la Direction de *Yves Delage* Professeur à la Sorbonne, avec la collaboration d'un Comité de Rédacteurs. Secrétaire de la Rédaction *Georges Poirault*, Directeur du Laboratoire d'enseignement supérieur de la villa Thuret, à Antibes. Troisième Année, 1897. Paris: Schleicher Frères. 1899. Pp. 843.

The *Année biologique* keeps on increasing in size; the report upon the vast and swelling bulk of biological inquiry seems to have no end; and it is precisely in